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INPORTNEWS

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■ BYLAW

Blade noise concerns neighbours

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Wainfleet residents want a bylaw calling for a two-kilometre setback for wind turbines and 100% restitution of property values by the wind energy industry.

Judith Atkinson of the Wainfleet Ratepayers' Association asked for the bylaw at a recent township council meeting, stating council has an ethical and legal obligation to protect residents from the noise and annoyance of wind turbines.

She said the current setback for wind turbines from residential homes is 550 metres, but contended the model used to determine that number, which also takes into account sound levels, was found to be inadequate.

see BYLAW | page 2

■ REQUEST: IPC can't use town road; says it came to meeting on its own

'We're not hiding anything'

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A group of Wainfleet residents stand outside township hall before the start of Tuesday night's council meeting. The residents are opposed to proposed wind turbine projects in Wainfleet. Representatives from IPC Energy, one of the companies proposing to build wind turbines in the township, spoke before council, as did opponents to the project.

WAINFLEET—Township council has blown off a request by Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. and IPC Energy to use an unopened portion of Side Road 22 in the township.

IPC Energy, working on behalf of Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., sought the unopened road allowance to give it access to one of its proposed wind turbine sites. The stretch of Side Road 22 (also known as Brown Rd.) would have been from Abbey Rd. south to Concession 1.

A report put forward by township staff outlined four options, including opening the road after IPC Energy carried out upgrades at its expense, selling the road allowance, and denying the request. Staff had recommended bringing it up to township standards.

see ENERGY | page 2

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■ ENERGY

Wainfleet project would have five turbines

FROM PAGE 1

After some discussion about road standards and who would be responsible for it at the end of the construction phase, councillors voted unanimously to turn down the report, leaving the company with no access through the unopened road allowance.

We are doing everything within their policies and are meeting or exceeding standards."

John Andrews, IPC Energy president

IPC Energy's president John Andrews and Tom Lewis, manager of planning and environment, were in council chambers during the discussion about the report and left immediately after the vote.

The two men had appeared before council earlier in the evening to give an update on

the Wainfleet wind energy project.

"We're not by invitation ... or by government requirement, we're here in an effort to fully cooperate with the township and community," said Lewis.

He said Wainfleet Wind Energy, started by the Loeffen brothers — John, Harold and the late Bill — was started in 2009 and as of January this year took on a new partner, Tom Rankin, CEO of Rankin Construction and Rankin Renewable Power and a Wainfleet property owner. At one time, Rankin proposed building his own wind turbines in the township, but the project was put on hold when the Green Energy Act came into effect.

Aldermen heard the Wainfleet project will see five 1.8-megawatt turbines installed in the Abbey and Station Rds. area. The turbines would generate 26 million kilowatts a year, enough to power 2,500 homes and reduce greenhouse gases by



Andrews

14,000 tonnes.

If the project meets all provincial requirements and is approved, Lewis said construction could

get underway in the first quarter of 2013, with the turbines operational by the third quarter of that year.

He said the switching station for the turbines was moved slightly due to Hydro One requirements and that an archeological assessment was carried out on the new location.

"We're going to have a final public open house, but the date has yet to be determined, and after that people have 60 days to review the draft package of the proposal."

The draft package will be available on the project website — www.wainfleetwindenergy.ca — and at Wainfleet

library for viewing.

In response to questions from council, Lewis and Andrews said just under 60 hectares of land is needed for the turbines, but once built, farmers would be able to work the fields almost to the base of each tower. All of the utilities associated with the project would be buried. Andrews also said not all turbines are put on prime agricultural lands; there have been projects built in the middle of forests.

Andrews told councillors that people opposed to the project must take up their complaints with the provincial government, as it has the final say through the Green Energy Act.

"We are doing everything within their policies and are meeting or exceeding standards. We are here tonight in a manner of co-operation, openness and transparency. We didn't have to do this, but quite frankly, we wanted to ... we wanted to show we're not hiding anything," Andrews said.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Wind turbines proposed for Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc.'s wind turbine farm will be similar to these in nearby Lowbanks. The same company, Vestas, which made the turbines for the Lowbanks project will make the ones for Wainfleet.

■ BYLAW

'We want our legal rights respected,' says group advocate

FROM PAGE 1

With wind turbines set for West Lincoln, by Niagara Region Wind Corp., reaching 179 metres in height, Atkinson said more low-frequency sound will be pushed out by the blades and travel over longer distances without much loss. That private company plans to install 77 turbines in West Lincoln and Wainfleet.

"We are seeking protection from the contamination of industrial wind turbines, from the noise and annoyance," Atkinson said.

She said the Green Energy Act has superseded laws that protect the health of

Ontario's citizens and undermined municipal council authority. She wondered if the loss of rights actually infringing on Canadian charter rights of residents.

"We want our legal rights respected."

Resident Andrew Watts, an outspoken opponent of wind turbines, also spoke at the meeting.

Watts cited expert after expert and studies from across the world that document negative effects of wind turbines on people.

"Evidence is being ignored," Watts said while calling for more studies.

"I can only continue by



Atkinson

asking this elected council to consider, and unanimously adopt, any bylaws or action they can take to prevent industrial

wind turbines being sited in Wainfleet, not only as the responsible and sole planning authority for Wainfleet, but also as the elected council for protecting the best interests of all members of their community," he said.

Ald. Betty Konc asked if



Watts

the ratemakers' request could be turned into a bylaw or if it needed to be tweaked.

Town clerk Tanya Lamb suggested town planner Grant Munday could work with the ratemakers to come up with wording for a possible bylaw.

"Bylaws are a little more complex than just what they said," she said.

Munday said the township

would have to point to legislation that would allow such a bylaw to be created.

"The Green Energy Act exempts the Planning Act ... the province has taken away authority from us," he noted.

The planner will work with the ratemakers and prepare a report for the next council meeting in February.

Konc believes council is under a legal obligation to protect residents.

"If we don't do our due diligence, we could be sued. We have to show we are making an effort ... we're being bullied into something we don't want to do," she said.

Ald. David Wyatt agreed

with Konc and said the measures have nothing to do with IPC Energy, which is within its full legal rights to pursue its own wind turbine project.

"We have to make a stand if we are going to make a change in government," he said.

Mayor April Jeffs said even though all decisions regarding wind turbines will be made by the province, at the end of the day residents look to their municipal officials for help.

"We can direct people where to go, but everything starts here at the township level," she said.

portraits

■ **ACCESS:** Company will use private land to get access

IPC Energy headed down another road

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — IPC Energy is moving on to Plan B.

Last week, Wainfleet township council defeated a report that would have seen the municipality lease the unopened section of Side Road 22, between Abbey Rd. and Concession 1, to the company for the Wainfleet wind energy project.

I P C Energy, working on behalf of Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., had wanted to use the road allowance to access land for

part of its wind farm.

IPC planning and environment manager Tom Lewis said the company will employ an alternative plan.

"All of the driveways and roads will now be on private land ... land we own and land under option through another owner," he said.

Lewis said the company is always listening to council and Wainfleet residents when it comes to the project, which started in 2009.

"We heard concern from council about covering agricultural land with driveways and roads to access our turbines. We wanted to use the side road to avoid covering up any land," he said.

"We'll continue to listen as we go through the Renewable Energy Approval process. We've updated the township of our own free will and will continue to do the same moving forward."



Wind turbines proposed for Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc.'s wind turbine farm will be similar to these in nearby Lowbanks. The same company, Vestas, which made the turbines for the Lowbanks project will make the ones for Wainfleet.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

"All of the driveways and roads will now be on private land ... land we own and land under option through another owner."

IPC planning and environment manager Tom Lewis

IPC Energy encourages people who have questions about the project to visit its website at www.wainfleet-windenergy.ca.

Concerns any residents have and pose to the company are passed on to the appropriate provincial contacts, said Lewis. Those contacts could be the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry

of Natural Resources and Ministry of Tourism and Culture, three of the government ministries the company must deal with

throughout the Renewable Energy Approval process.

Up next, he said, is a final public open house, where plans will be open for the

public to view and comment on. Though no date has been set for that meeting, Lewis said it could be late March or early April of this year.

Lewis said if the project is approved, it could get underway later this year, but realistically speaking, it probably wouldn't start until the first quarter of 2013, with the turbines in operation later that year.

The turbines being used in the project are five 1.8-megawatt units built by Vestas, the same manufacturer of the turbines installed in Lowbanks, just west of Wainfleet along the lakeshore in Haldimand County.

"The turbines will be different from those," Lewis said. Vestas is a well-proven company.

INPORT NEWS

Published by InPort News
Sun Media Corp.

228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5

Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660

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■ ourview

Winter surfing makes a beachhead

A wave of interest appears to be building in a winter sport that could find itself with a growing following in local beach-area communities.

And no, it isn't ice hockey.

Would you believe surfing?

Tunes from the early '60s by California-based groups such as the Beach Boys and Jan and Dean swept away our hearts and imaginations with lyrics about waxing those surf boards, riding the waves and "surfer girls" dotting the shoreline of California's beaches.

Well, local enthusiasts of this rugged outdoor sport are taking it to the next level, in a manner of speaking. They are making the most of opportunities at various beaches in Niagara by making surfing a winter-season sport. Why let those winter waves go for naught?

The weekend just gone by, about a dozen surfers took part in Niagara-on-the-Lake Surf Club's Battle of the Great Lakes 2 surf contest behind the Palmwood Hotel in Fort Erie. The weather outside was just right for the hardy participants in this sport: snow squalls, air temperature of -5C and near-freezing water. Most of us would have reacted and recoiled with a loud "Brrrrr!" just at the thought of dipping a toe or two into the surf. But not these surfboard athletes, who warmed up to the challenge Sunday afternoon.

Winter surfers say a beach near Fort Colborne is a preferred site for this outdoor adventure. Pleasant Beach, near Sherken, often has better waves than those at the Fort Erie beach, which was chosen to host Sunday's meet because the parking lot provides easy access in and out of the water and surfers are closer to their parked vehicles and able to keep warm.

Organizers of events such as this and participants in winter surfing can tell that interest in the still-fledgling competition is growing, even though it isn't in great leaps and bounds. They notice increased activity on websites and a flurry of postings by surfers and curiosity-seekers, a sign that people are taking more and wanting to know and learn more.

Participants in the weekend competition were not just Niagara-based. Some came from as far as Rochester, N. Y., and Toronto, an indication this is not merely a local phenomenon. It may take a while before the masses warm up to winter surfing but those who are so not so faint-hearted see it as a sport with room to grow. Who knows, we may one day hear: "Let's go surfin' now, Everybody's learning how, Come on and surf with me" as popularized by the Beach Boys blaring out across local beaches in the middle of winter. Stranger things have happened.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

When I was a kid, growing up in Burlington, you got snow in the winter. What's going on this year? I've got a bet going with my wife and three of my kids that before the first day of spring we'll get enough snow for tobogganing. So far they're winning.

The light dustings of snow that we've had so far haven't inspired us to get the sleds out. And the snow never lasts very long. A day or two after a snow fall it all melts away.

When I was a kid there was always at least one day a year when school was cancelled because of a heavy snowfall. I think I can remember a year when we must have had three snow days. These days school buses may be cancelled because of slippery conditions but I don't remember the last time there was a snow day because there was just too much snow on the ground.

This isn't a cliche about global warming and climate change but, from completely unscientific recollections, something does seem to have happened to our winter weather patterns.

Now, I've heard from plenty of people who are perfectly happy with this year's winter. Not everyone is a fan of piles of snow along the curb and on either side of the driveway. People who have become known as "snowbirds" head south to escape the cold and snow of winter.

And snow of winter.

You can escape winter weather by heading south to a warm and sunny place, but you can't always escape a wintry soul by just putting on a warm and sunny disposition. There are times when we need to have what some call a "wintry spirituality".

There are times in a life when warmth, sunshine, and joy disappear. It might come when you lose a job when a relationship is broken, when a doctor tells you the lab results are positive, when a loved one dies. Then we are left with feelings of sadness, shame, disappointment, loneliness, abandonment. There is a chill in your soul. What's even worse at times like these is that God seems gone. At times like these people may cry to God, not in desperation or sadness, but with complaining. Some Christians can't allow themselves to complain to God. But it's no sin.

"But I, O LORD, cry out to you in the morning my prayer comes before you."

O LORD, why do you cast me off?
Why do you hide your face from me?"
(Psalm 88:13-14)

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my praying?

Only God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;

and by night, but find no rest." (Psalm 22:1-2)

The winter of the soul and complaining to God are entirely biblical. When someone is a Christian that doesn't mean that everything is always happy and clappy, smiley and nice. Being a Christian doesn't mean that we'll never be overcome or that we'll never feel abandoned by God feeling completely alone.

But God is gracious. God is good. God never leaves us. God is incredibly and uncontrollably generous. God is irrationally loving. God never tires of giving. When God seems farthest away he is right beside us. When we can't see through our tears God holds us in his arms and his heart breaks for us.

When we like the snow and cold of winter or flee from it, nevertheless it comes. And just as surely as winter comes, spring and summer will follow. Our northern hemisphere will tilt back toward the sun and from the warmth of spring and summer new life will emerge. Just as surely God can take the winter of our souls and warm them with the spring and summer of his grace and mercy.

I sure hope we still get a chance to sled down the hill at Lakeview Park because I don't want to lose my bet. I can live with winter. There are even some things about it that I like. I can also live with the winter times for my soul. I certainly don't look forward to them, but I know that when they come my Lord and my God is with me. And eventually spring will come.

■ COLUMN

Group 5 – Toy Breeds – Terrier Type

The Maltese Terrier is considered the oldest of the toy dogs in Europe. It is thought that they originated in Malta. They were probably given as gifts or purchased by explorers to take home to their families because the Maltese Terriers were small and cute. They were kept a sweet temperament and a light silky coat that needs daily grooming to keep it looking nice.

The Yorkshire Terrier was developed from the breeding of the Maltese Terrier with other British Terriers. Today they have a long silky coat somewhat like the Maltese Terriers. But originally they had a shorter coat and they were twice as big. They were used to rats in the coal mines, cotton mills and factories. It took many years to reduce the size as we know the Yorkie today. Occasionally today breeders are surprised to get a puppy in their litters that end up twice the size of its litter mates. It is a "throwback" to the original Yorkshire Terriers.



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

The Silky Terrier was developed from the Australian Terrier and the Yorkshire Terrier around the 1900's. Not until 1959 did the breed get recognized by the Australian Kennel Club as a true breed. The Silky Terrier doesn't have the strong terrier temperament but has a happy, friendly nature that makes him an ideal companion and family pet.

The Toy Fox Terriers were bred down from the Smooth Fox Terriers and weigh only around three to seven pounds. It took a long time to reduce their size and they were not recognized as a true breed until 1936. They are easily trained, alert, fearless, and remain playful at all their lives.

The Toy Manchester Terrier is an old breed that has been around since the 15th century. They were originally part of the Manchester Terrier litter. In a litter there would be a mix of big puppies and tiny puppies. Eventually they became two separate breeds. Both breeds were exceptionally fine raters. In the 1800's toyman had a rat pit as entertainment.

The men put money wagers on the dogs that they thought would kill the most rats. Men would bring their best rat dogs to kill the rats in the rat pit. The dog that killed the most rats was declared the winner and his owner would take home some of the money. In 1848 an owner brought in a Toy Manchester Terrier named Tiny the Wonder. He took bets that Tiny could kill 300 rats in three hours. Bets were placed. Tiny did the job in less than an hour and his owner went home happy with Tiny and all the wagged money. Today these little dogs are happy to be spoiled family pets.

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■ COLUMN

Wind turbines meeting resistance for good reason

NIMBY's... closed-minded... we've even heard the term "whiners" reference our council and township when it comes to proposed wind energy projects slated for Wainfleet.

While I can't paint our community entirely with the same brush — some folks are willing to embrace and welcome wind turbines into our area, but we do have what we feel constitutes a majority that are not as excited at the prospect or who simply do not want them here at all, and we feel with good reason.

Two main reasons include the potential for adverse health effects and the concern of substantial property devaluation for surrounding homeowners. There are hundreds of conflicting reports addressing both these issues, and at the end of the day, it leaves residents with no concrete answer.

The first step our council took last February when the issue arose was to hold a public meeting so we could get a true picture with regard to how our community felt and what their concerns were.

We listened in our council chambers as by one, many residents rose from a gallery that was standing room only to express their concerns and plead with us to join the other municipalities in the call for a moratorium on in-land



April Jeffs
MAYOR OF
WAINFLEET

turbines until further studies were completed. By the end of March, council voted unanimously to join, at that time, the other 77 municipalities faced with the same plight.

In December, I joined with two members of our town council, along with Mayor Doug Joyner of West Lincoln at Queen's Park to voice our strong support for provincial legislation that would have restored local decision-making powers to municipalities like Wainfleet. Regrettably, that legislation was opposed by two of the provincial parties — preventing our local residents, homeowners, businesses and municipal council from having a say in where these massive construction projects will be located.

Currently, Wainfleet could potentially see two projects make our municipality their home. One is slated near the lake, the other in the North West portion of the township crossing borders with West Lincoln.

I know many Wainfleet brings to mind sprawling acreages

of farmland, however, when you incorporate heritage sites, provincially significant wetlands and the 2,916 residences that make up our tax base, placing a wind turbine of such magnitude isn't as easy as one might think. We are not unique as dozens of other towns have been forced to entertain similar projects and we feel rural Ontario has every right to question and even say "no" to such an industry setting up shop in our communities.

But as we all know, we do not have that right under the Green Energy Act that was established in 2009.

Being forced to embrace something that potentially threatens our community just isn't cool. When elected, we were charged with the obligation of protecting those who make up our wonderfully diverse, close-knit community and if we're being asked by the masses to go to

bat on their behalf, then it's clear we have no other choice. So fault us for doing what we were elected to do if you must.

People want answers about health, personal property and the ever-escalating costs of energy in this province. We believe it starts at the municipal level when setting out to find those answers. I could argue that aspect, but the truth is there could be several answers for each issue. That's the point. Nothing is clear when it comes to the feasibility of these machines.

Just last week, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) joined the ever-increasing concerned groups regarding industrial wind turbines. The OFA cited a number of reasons and stated that the removal of municipal input regarding such projects has alienated the rural population and

ignored competing community needs and policies. The minister of energy's response reinforces the notion that the municipalities are being left out of the process... or left in the dark, if you will.

Wainfleet council feels it's necessary that our new Official Plan that is soon to be approved supports alternative energy and forward-thinking solutions to protect our environment, however, we must move forward only after considering the impacts of these types of projects both financially and to our community.

On Feb. 28, our council will be presented with a planning report and two bylaws requesting two-kilometre setbacks for wind turbines in our township and 100% restitution by the proponents for property devaluation to the local homeowner.

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■ **MUSIC:** Elementary students hear their music performed

Symphony instrumental in teaching



DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Budding Mozarts and Beethovens at St. Patrick Catholic School had a chance to hear some sweet music performed by four members of Niagara Symphony last Friday.

The music wasn't by any of the classical masters, but by the students themselves. Grade 5-6 and Grade 7-8 music students of teachers Sheena Astolfo and Michael Caldwell teamed up with Niagara Symphony's Composer in the Classroom to compose the pieces of music.

"It's a three-day workshop with Laura Thomas, an associate conductor with the symphony," B.J. Armstrong, Niagara Symphony education co-ordinator, said.

Thomas is also an arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher.

Armstrong said the students, Thomas and musicians worked together on melodies using a xylophone. They also went over music and composition theory, exploring contrasting melodies and the sounds of the various instruments.

Once the students, working with Thomas, composed their pieces, they then worked with the musicians to refine how it would sound.

see **MUSIC** | page 7

Niagara Symphony members, from left, Gordon Cleland, Marlene Dankiw-Bath, Charlene Nagel and Douglas W. Miller play a piece of music written by St. Patrick Catholic School students.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Niagara Symphony cello player Gordon Cleland performs a piece of music written by St. Patrick Catholic School students. The symphony brought its education program to the Port Colborne school.

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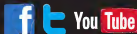
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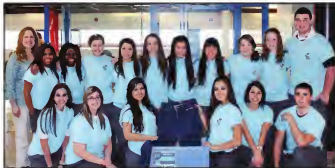
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■ INTERACT CLUB: Teens take on new project



Supplied photo

Students in Lakeshore Catholic High School's Interact Club are running a Teens for Jeans drive until Friday, Feb. 10. Students taking part include, front row from left: Bianca Benincasa, Taylor Hoover, Laura Aluradna, Brittany Ditzio, Adriana Gonzalez, Matteo Bono and, back row, from left, teacher-moderator Stephanie Colangelo, Hailey Fortune, Faithful Poku, Kasey Cleveland, Tamra Nettagov, Elizabeth West, Jessica Lai, Hannah Polinski, Megan Brown, Rebecca Smith, Pat Quinn. Absent from the photo is Emily Armstrong.

Teens for Jeans needs good denim

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Lakeshore Catholic High School's Interact Club is running a Teens for Jeans drive.

Teacher Stephanie Colangelo said schools across the globe are participating in the project to provide jeans to homeless teens in their area.

The project is supported by dosomething.org and clothing company Aeropostale.

New or gently-used jeans are being col-

lected at the school, 150 Janet St., in the main office and in front of the cafeteria until Feb. 10. Jeans will then be delivered to Aeropostale, which will tally and distribute them to local homeless shelters.

"We would greatly appreciate your donations from within the school and the community," said Colangelo.

For more information, contact Colangelo at Lakeshore at 905-835-2451. You can also visit the Teens for Jeans web-site at www.dosomething.org/teensforjeans.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT/ FENCE-VIEWERS/PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet invites area residents who would be interested in being a member of the following committee.

Committee of Adjustment/Fence-Viewers/Property Standards - 1 position available

Interested residents may submit their application to Tanya Lamb, Township Clerk. Application forms for this committee may be downloaded from the Township's Web Site (www.wainfleet.ca) or by picking up copies in person from the Township Office during regular business hours (Monday—Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm).

Completed application forms may be dropped off at the Township Office, mailed, emailed (tlamb@wainfleet.ca) or faxed (Attention Tanya Lamb at 905-899-2340), by no later than Monday February 13th, 2012.

For further information, please contact:

Tanya Lamb
Clerk

31940 Hwy #3

Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0

tlamb@wainfleet.ca

905-899-3463 x. 226

TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

www.wainfleet.ca

■ RESIDENTS MAD: Hold their own meeting

Conservation authority puts new floodplain maps on hold

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority will not change the floodplains surrounding the Welland River—at least for now.

As a result of concerns raised by property owners, NPCA announced it will continue using its floodplain maps dating back to 1985 for issuing building permits—despite new updated floodplain maps released in March.

Instead, the new floodplain maps will be used to advise property owners about the potential threats, and recommend that they take precautions such as flood-proofing measures when constructing buildings on property included

in revised floodplain areas.

But Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs said she remains concerned that could change in the months ahead.

She said NPCA's decision was based on the recommendations of its board of directors at a meeting Jan. 18. Jeffs, an NPCA board member, was at that meeting.

"I think it's only until June," she said.

At the same meeting, she said, the NPCA board established a working committee to develop a process for implementing the new

floodplain data. The committee will include board members and NPCA staff, and, Jeffs said, "there should be residents on that committee as well."

An NPCA news release said the organization does not anticipate any new information regarding the updated floodplain maps until the end of June.

More than 130 people from Wainfleet, Pelham, Welland and West Lincoln attended a public meeting at the Wainfleet firehall to discuss the issue.

Jeffs said she heard from residents "who are really, really concerned about this—about their property values and everything."

Wainfleet Ald. Ted Hessels said the meeting was organized by a few concerned Wainfleet property owners



Hessels

I think every property owner will be affected somehow. The big question is what is the need to raise the floodplain. That's the key question right there."

Gerry Prentice, farmer

who approached the township to ask if they could use city property to host the meeting.

Hessels said the township allowed the residents use of the firehall for the meeting, and also issued the invitations for the meeting.

"It just shows you this council is really trying to work with the residents of Wainfleet," Hessels said. "We were all there in full support."

Jeffs said she met with Wainfleet property owners who could be affected if the

changes are implemented, including farmer Gerry Prentice.

Prentice said he wants more information.

"I think every property owner will be affected somehow," he said. "The big question is what is the need to raise the floodplain. That's the key question right there."

Although the media release refers to the age of the previous floodplain maps, Prentice said he suspects there may be more to it than that. Jeffs said Wainfleet and other affected

municipalities are trying to determine what they can do.

"I understand (NPCA's) mandate is to protect people, and at the same time if it's going to hurt people financially down the road—that's a major, major concern," she said.

In the NPCA's statement, chief administrative officer Tony D'Amario said conservation authority staff asked an engineering consultant to conduct alternate simplified analyses on certain areas of the system.

"We believe that given the extent of the variances from the old to new levels, and the concerns expressed by residents, that this additional check is warranted before moving forward with implementation," he said.

abenner@wellandtribune.ca

BUSINESS PROFILE

State of the Art Facility

LASIK provision

«The way you want to see»

Lasik ProVision is the Niagara Peninsula's only comprehensive refractive centre which deals with the treatment of common visual disorders. The centre was founded in its current location in 1999 and has evolved to a state of the art refractive centre with a global reputation for the laser correction of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It is a world leader in bringing the treatment of Zeiss Laser Blended Vision for the treatment of presbyopic "reading glasses vision" to North America. In addition, the centre specializes in the treatment of cataracts and corneal disorders such as keratoconus.

«Founder and medical director, Dr. Andrew W. Taylor, is one of North America's leading ophthalmologists in the use of excimer lasers in refractive surgery. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1991 and went on to complete a specialty residency in ophthalmology, also at the University of Toronto. He then went on to complete subspecialty training in corneal and refractive disorders. He has completed over 100,000 refractive procedures including lasik, photorefractive keratectomy and cataract surgery to date. In addition to his directorship role at Lasik ProVision, Dr. Taylor is an active staff member of The Niagara Health System in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Lasik ProVision has evolved in its current location from its original incarnation as Lasik Vision, which brought affordable lasik eye surgery to North America. Dr. Taylor restructured Lasik Vision in 2001 as a founding principal and owner of Lasik MD, which then went on to expand refractive clinics across Canada. In 2005, Dr. Taylor left Lasik MD to focus on more customized patient eye care. In addition to the base clinic in Niagara Falls, he undertook an international expansion to London, England, Brussels, Belgium and the United States. Currently, in addition to his work in Niagara Falls, Dr. Taylor is involved in the development of a comprehensive ophthalmic centre in Toronto.

"What is exciting now in refractive laser eye surgery is the safety of the procedure and the range of treatment options now available for patients. It is rare that a patient cannot benefit from refractive surgery," says Dr. Taylor. "The greatest development in recent years has been the use of the femtosecond laser for the creation of the flap upon which the lasik procedure is based. Not only does this create a thinner and more uniform flap which leads to better optical outcomes, it alleviates the need for a blade and cutting microkeratome which was for many patients the biggest hurdle preventing them from having refractive laser surgery. The safety factor is so great, I no longer utilize the microkeratome blade in lasik eye surgery." Dr. Taylor has extensive experience on several laser platforms. "While we started with the Bausch and Lomb platform in 1999, the industry has moved forward to provide greater customization for the unique optical needs of each individual patient. At Lasik ProVision, we have the WaveLight Allegretto platform but we are increasingly shifting to the Zeiss Meditec MEL 80 platform with the VisuMax femtosecond laser." This platform in my belief delivers the optimal refractive of the cornea to maintain the natural corneal shape for optimal optical correction and customization. Zeiss laser Blended Vision is unique in the treatment of presbyopia or "reading glasses vision". It is the only excimer laser platform that predictably increases the range of vision so patients can see at near, intermediate and far without the loss of stereovision. This is truly exciting. Previously, and on other laser platforms, we could only treat with monovision with one eye corrected for far and one eye corrected for distance. This left patients with a loss of intermediate vision and reduced stereo vision. It worked, but Zeiss Laser Blended Vision works so much better."

What is the future of refractive surgery? The future is continuing to refine the refractive outcome with ever safer and less invasive procedures. I am very excited that within the next year, we will begin to fully utilize the femtosecond laser's potential, going beyond the creation of better flaps to conducting the entire laser procedure within the cornea without a flap. This may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality and I am honoured that Zeiss has chosen to partner with Lasik ProVision in Niagara Falls to bring this technology to North America.

LASIK NIAGARA

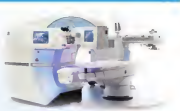
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You may visit our website at

www.lasikprovision.com

6800 Morrison Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario



DR. ANDREW W. TAYLOR
LASIK PROVISION
FOUNDER AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR



inPortbriefs

BUDGET TALKS

WAINFLEET — The township held a pre-budget meeting on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in council chambers.

"We've introduced this as a new opportunity to invite the public to come out and provide input before we move into our budget deliberations on Tuesday, Feb. 7," Mayor April Jeffs said.

Residents may also register as a delegate for the Feb. 7 meeting.

Wainfleet's capital budget for 2011 was nearly \$4 million. In 2011 residents saw a 2.96% tax hike, equivalent to \$57.83 added to the municipal portion of property taxes for an average home assessed at \$208,625. There was no word on what this year's capital budget will be.

JEFFS EMPLOYING SPIES

WAINFLEET — With the township's next council meeting falling on Valentine's Day, Mayor April Jeffs told aldermen she wants them all to wear red to the meeting.

"As the mayor who enjoys special occasions, I am hoping that while I am away from all of you and while you are away from your sweeties on

Valentine's Day, that everyone would consider wearing red that night and donating to the United Way as they wrap up their campaign for 2011," Jeffs, who will be away on vacation, said Tuesday night.

Jeffs joked that she'll have "spies strategically placed in the gallery who will report back to me to let me know who wore red and who did not."

Alld. Ted Hessels will be

acting mayor for the meeting.

COMPLAINTS TO DWINDLE

WAINFLEET — The township's bylaw enforcement officer has a backlog of complaints to get through — some dating back nearly 10 years — but hopes to resolve most of them over the next year.

Last year 38 complaints were received by the township and

44 complaints were resolved. As of Dec. 31, 2011, there were 83 unresolved complaints with the municipality.

"Bylaw enforcement is a lengthy process ... it's my goal to reduce the numbers, but it takes time," John Boerna, who also acts as Wainfleet's chief building official, told the mayor in council chambers Tuesday night. "I hope to close most of them over the next year."



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PERMITS ABOVE AVERAGE

WAINFLEET — One-hundred-four building permits were issued in the township in 2011 and of those 18 were for new single-family houses, council heard.

A report from John Boerema, Wainfleet's chief building official, said of the 104 permits issued, 83% were residential, 14% agricultural, 2% industrial

and 1% commercial. The permits generated \$84,381 for the township, down \$18,596 from 2011 but still \$11,753 above the 10-year average.

Boerema, who has only been on the job for a short time, told council Tuesday night he couldn't speak to the various fluctuations.

"I'm not sure if there was any one single event... the economy would have an effect though."

PARKING

Port Colborne meters could go digital

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Change could be coming to Port Colborne's mechanical parking meters.

A report was brought forward to council Monday night outlining a plan to replace the city's outdated meters with digital meters and pay and display

machines.

The city's old mechanical meters are difficult to service and costly to repair because of their age, Peter Senese, Port Colborne's director of community and corporate services, told council.

Parts are becoming increasingly difficult to find and more often than not the meters need to be replaced because they

can't be repaired, he added.

Port Colborne budgets between \$3,000 and \$4,000 each year just to repair the meters, said Dan Aquilina, the city's director of planning and development.

The pay and display machines, which cost \$9,000 to \$12,000 each, will reduce collection times, have a cleaner look, and make snow removal

and sidewalk construction maintenance easier with no polls from individual meters in the way.

"It's more cost efficient and effective to put in the pay and display machines," Senese said.

There are 94 mechanical meters that require replacement. Each pay and display machine will serve about 10 parking spaces.

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LIMIT 8

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■ EATALY: Great food featured

New store a remarkable addition

GEORGE DUMA
for InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — To some it may be a cliché. But home really is where the heart is.

Many have left Port Colborne early in life only to return years later to raise their families here. It's the lure of the lakeside city; perhaps that it's a perfect place to raise a family. And, of course, there are the family ties that bind individuals together.

Tony Spiteri, 43, and Claudia Sica, 42, met in their teens, while attending different high schools. Claudia was at Notre Dame while Tony spent his time at Lockview, later sold by the public board to the separate board to become Lakeshore Catholic.

"My cousin was Tony's best friend," Claudia recalls, and she and Tony became fast friends as well at the age of 15. It would be another five years, however, before the

two would start dating. And marriage would follow soon after, in 1993.

Claudia is the owner of the newest eating sensation in Port, Eataly Foods, a cafe and deli on the south side of Clarence Street between West and King Streets.

It's a remarkable addition to the city's downtown core.

Eataly is a little like stepping into a piece of its namesake country, Italy.

There are Italian meats and cheeses, cannolis and other beautiful pastries, anti-pasto-type items like pickled mushrooms, feta-stuffed hot peppers, caramelized baby onions, pickled eggplant and so much more. And there are specialty drinks like espresso and cappuccino. There is also an assortment of dried goods and lovely Italian bread as well.

The cafe is already attracting a bustling lunchtime crowd, with its panini sandwiches, pasta dishes, salads and soup. It doesn't matter what kind of soup is offered

on any given day, it's delicious. There are a few tables as well to add to the charming ambience.

As Ida Miani's niece, Claudia spent her formative years helping out at her Aunt Ida's iconic Miani's Bakery and Deli on the northwest corner of Fares and Bell Streets. Couple that with growing up in an Italian family and Claudia's foodie credentials are sound, to say the least.

And then there's Tony's background in food.

After graduating from the business-marketing program at Niagara College, Tony took a job at Maple Leaf Meats for 11 years, working his way up the ladder before leaving the company as the vice-president of poultry.

The couple moved to Victoria in 1999 where Tony took a job as the vice-president of marketing for Thrifty Foods, a grocery chain with 18 stores spread around Vancouver Island.

After three years, the couple moved to Edmonton where Tony took a job as the senior vice-president of marketing and business development for Lillydale, a Canadian-owned and operated poultry processor.

Following six years in Alberta's capital, the couple moved south to Calgary where Tony became president and chief operating officer for New Food Classics (NFC), a private-label company. The meat wholesaler acted as a supplier to the President's Choice brand and supplied steaks to outfits like The Keg, among others.

But as the clock kept ticking and months turned into years in Calgary, the young couple found themselves more than 10 years removed from Port. Only now there were three children on board



GEORGE DUMA for InPort News Photo

Claudia Spiteri is carrying on a family legacy with her new downtown cafe and deli, Eataly. Claudia's aunt Ida Miani was the owner-operator of Miani's Bakery and Deli on the east side before retiring a few years ago. Claudia spent many hours of her youth working for Aunt Ida.

as well — Francesca, now 13, and twin boys Dario and Christiano, now 8.

"Yeah, it was, to a large extent," Tony agrees, when asked if the decision to move back to Port was family-driven, "but not entirely."

From a professional point of view it was also time to come back east.

"I had become a partner in NFC and it became clear I wanted to take the company in a different direction than it was going," he says. When it was clear Tony's partners

weren't going to agree, Tony walked away.

That was almost two years ago. The company recently filed for bankruptcy protection.

Not an "I-told-you-so" kind of guy, when pressed, Tony concedes, "Yeah, I guess I was right."

But that was then and this is now.

see BUSINESS | page 13

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■ BUSINESS

Owners relying on word-of-mouth for clientele

FROM PAGE 12

Tony is currently the vice-president of marketing for Piny's Delicious Foods Inc.

Meanwhile, Claudia, who "was lucky enough" to stay home and raise the kids during their young years, is running Eataly, though she and Tony are a partnership in every sense of the word.

And as partnerships go, Francesca is right in there too. She did, after all, come up with the name, Eataly.

"We had pizza night every Friday," Claudia explains, "where Tony would make the dough and we would all add our ingredients."

It was during a pizza night that the family began tossing around names for what they thought at the time would be a new pizzeria. Once Francesca came up with the name, Claudia and Tony had the name incorporated.

"It cost about \$1,100," says Tony, "so we gave Francesca the certificate for her birthday that year."

An astonishing aspect of the new venture is the prices. They are amazingly low, though you would expect to pay at a major chain, not a small deli. That's coupled with the quality, something the Spiteris insist upon, and,

buying locally wherever they can.

"We didn't want to stock a lot at any given time," Tony says. "We wanted to keep our prices competitive and sell on turnover, which also ensures everything is always fresh."

Having opened Dec. 1, the Spiteris are supremely confident in the city's downtown and thrilled to be a part of it in their hometown.

"And a lot of our clientele is word-of-mouth," Tony explains. "So-and-so talks to so-and-so and word spreads."

As the couple settles

into the business community, they are also intent on giving back. The Spiteris have already formed an affiliation with Lakeshore Catholic High School's shop class. Students there are producing pasta dryers and they will be on sale at Eataly to the public.

"We'll sell them free of charge and the money goes back to the shop," says Claudia.

So after years of being away and starting their family, Claudia and Tony Spiteri are finally back home. And loving every minute of it.



GEORGE DUMA InPort News Photo
Tony Spiteri is a huge help to wife Claudia in her new cafe and deli, Eataly. Tony has spent his business career in the food industry, most recently as vice-president of marketing for Piny's Delicious Foods Inc. Eataly deals in a wide variety of food products, including Italian bread.

FREE of the month FEBRUARY

Our Port Country Pantry's

Apple Chutney Pie Filling

Apple Filling:

1 Peel & core apples. Place in medium size pot. Stew apples on medium heat, until apples are soft to the consistency of applesauce or (microwave on a medium (6) setting until the same result is achieved). Add Cloves, Cinnamon & Icing Sugar; dissolve into the softened apples. Stir in Raisins, Currants & Crystallized Ginger, simmer on low for 5 minutes or (microwave on low (4) setting for the 5 minutes).

Preheat oven to 375°F (180°C).

Make Pie:

2. Prepare your favorite pie double crust recipe for (2) 8" pies.

Roll out dough & center over pie plate for the bottom crust, trim excess dough. Divide the "Filling" equally & fill the (2) pies. Roll out dough, then center the top crust over the filled bottom crust. Trim the overhang to be slightly longer than the overhang of the bottom crust. Fold the overhang under so that the top crust folds slightly over the bottom crust. Fold both crust under so they are flush with the rim of the pie plate. Flute the edge or press with a fork to seal the crusts. If you prefer a thinner edge to your crust, leave less over hang on the top and bottom crust when forming. Make slices with a knife or poke holes with the fork in the top crust to allow steam to escape while the pies bake. Bake at 375 degrees F for 25 to 30 minutes, until crust is browned edges.

Cool completely before cutting & serving.

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The Heart and Stroke flag was raised at city hall on Thursday, with Marci Lunt, Port Colborne zone leader, Mayor Vance Badawey, Lynne Goulet, Port Colborne zone leader, and Susan Chouinard, Niagara District Heart and Stroke area manager. February is Heart and Stroke month and canvassers will be going door to door asking for donations to help fund research to "Make Death Wait."



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■ **HOCKEY:** Organization wants to give female players a chance to develop their game in Port Colborne

Port minor hockey hopes to add girls, adult leagues to lineup

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A new girls hockey league is a first for Port Colborne Minor Hockey Association, says the organization's house league director.

"Over the last little while we've been asked by parents and members of minor hockey to look at offering girls hockey

and an adult league," Rob Green said.

While many girls play minor hockey now in Port Colborne, they're mixed in with the boys, he said, adding the goal is to develop a girls hockey program and to keep it local for all girls currently playing within minor hockey.

"The girls league is the next thing for minor hockey

to evolve and move forward," Green said.

Association president Bill Steele said as female hockey players get older, many are lost to girls leagues in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. The hope is to keep the girls who start off in minor hockey in Port Colborne with the new league.

There will be rep and house

league programs with the divisions and the number of teams to be determined based on the number of players and various age groups that sign up for next season.

"We're in the process of getting things set up and organized in the next few weeks and hope to have more details released soon. We're all excited about this," Green said.

Steele said the new league will join the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and Lower Lakes Girls League.

Green and Steele said the girls league and the adult league will fit in nicely with the Vale Health and Wellness Centre once Port Colborne's new twin-pad arena opens next year.

"We're expanding our pro-

gramming based on the new facility," Steele said.

In addition to the girls league, minor hockey is adding an adult league for the 2012-13 season.

Tim McAvoy, the association's second vice-president, said the adult league will be open to all ages.

see HOCKEY | page 19



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■ HOCKEY

Parity a goal in proposed adult league



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne Minor Hockey first vice-president Tom Lannan, left, and president Bill Steele, stand in front of the city's Vale Health and Wellness Centre to promote a new hockey league the organization has started for men and women.

FROM PAGE 16

Many people have been approaching minor hockey, asking it to start an adult league in Port Colborne.

"The board has been hearing from people, so we thought, 'Why not?' People are telling us they want to play more hockey," said McAvoy, who plays on two teams himself.

While many leagues have shrunk, minor hockey believes it can draw enough players from the city and surrounding area to set up the adult league.

Part of the problem, McAvoy said, was the loss of the former Jockey Kennedy Arena and the shifting of time available at Westside Arena. There were open slots to play, but too late at night for most players.

The adult league will be based on rules and regulations that the players want

and McAvoy said there will be a draft so there are no stacked teams in the league.

"People don't like to get blown out or blow out others. We should have enough people and divisions so there is parity and players will have a good time," he said.

Disputes, if any, in the adult league would be handled by minor hockey, which is used to dealing with them now. Minor hockey, McAvoy added, also has an advantage as it has referees, schedulers and timekeepers, all things that can help the new league run smoothly from the start.

Steele said any funds raised from registration in the adult league will be your back into minor hockey to help with training and training aids which the organizations.

■ RAISING FLAG, AWARENESS



Supplied photo

The Wainfleet Fire and Stroke campaign was officially launched Tuesday with a flag-raising ceremony at township hall. From left are canvassers Mayor April Jeffs, Doris Ostrykh, Shelley Dressel, Wainfleet zone leader Janet Hodgkins and Niagara Region Heart Month co-ordinator Amanda Rodgers.

For more information visit www.porlminorhockey.com or e-mail hockey@portminorhockey.com

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Pkg of
12

1 49

2 99

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lb.

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lb.

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4 99

lb.

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It's Not
Butter!"*

1 lb Tub



**1/2
PRICE**

\$1

3 Tub Limit



**1/2
PRICE**

1 49

6 Bag Limit

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